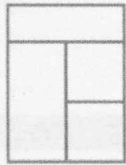


**LEONARD & BINA ELLEN
ART GALLERY**



October 31, 2019 - January 12, 2020

SHUVINAI ASHOONA

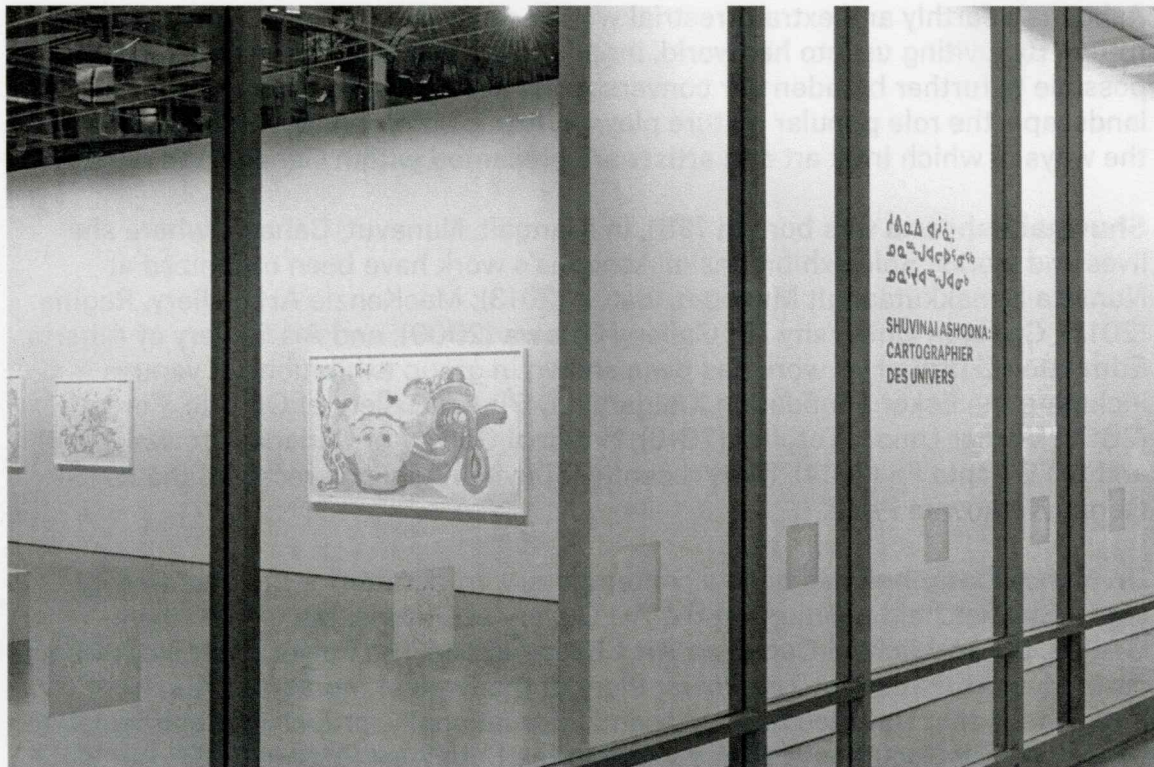
ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ

MAPPING WORLDS

ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ

Curator: Nancy Campbell assisted by Justine Kohleal

Exhibition is organized and circulated by The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto. The exhibition and tour are supported by The TD Ready Commitment, Major Donors The Schreiber Sisters, an anonymous Major Donor, Canada Council for the Arts and Ontario Arts Council



Installation view of Shuvinaï Ashoona, *Mapping Worlds* at The Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University, Montreal. Photo by Paul Litherland

EXHIBITION FINAL REPORT

PROGRAMMING 2019-2020

Exhibition title: *Mapping Worlds*

Artist: Shuvinai Ashoona:

Curator: Nancy Campbell assisted by Justine Kohleal

Exhibition dates: October 31, 2019 — January 18, 2020

Opening: Wednesday, October 30, 5:30 pm — 7:30 pm

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION

Mapping Worlds presents a selection of works on paper produced by Shuvinai Ashoona over the past two decades. Though many of her early drawings depict daily life in Kinngait (formerly Cape Dorset), Nunavut, continuing an artistic tradition begun by the artist's grandmother Pitseolak Ashoona (1908–1983) and first cousin Annie Pootoogook (1969 – 2016), Shuvinai Ashoona is best known for developing a personal iconography with imagery ranging from closely observed naturalistic scenes of her Arctic home to monstrous and fantastical visions.

This personal iconography, consisting of human-animal hybrid creatures, women birthing worlds and barren landscapes that appear to be post-apocalyptic even though they are inspired by the terrain of her northern home, project the past and present into an otherworldly, almost prophetic future. And, unlike many settler visions of times to come, which focus on violent clashes between humans and nature, humans and other humans, or humans and otherworldly 'invaders', Ashoona's earthly and extraterrestrial worlds exist within a kinder intergalactic future. By inviting us into her world, inner and otherwise, Ashoona makes it possible to further broaden our conversations about the changing northern landscape, the role popular culture plays in Arctic communities and, importantly, the ways in which Inuit art and artists are presented within Canada and abroad.

Shuvinai Ashoona was born in 1961, in Kinngait, Nunavut, Canada, where she lives and works. Solo exhibitions of Ashoona's work have been organized at Nunatta Sunakkutaangit Museum, Iqaluit (2013); MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina (2012); Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa (2009); and Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton (2006). Her work has been shown in group exhibitions at venues including the Esker Foundation, Calgary (2017); Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto (2017); Mercer Union, Toronto (2016), National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa (2014) and SITE Santa Fe (2014). Most recently, Shuvinai Ashoona received the 2018 Gershon Iskowitz Prize.

Dr. Nancy Campbell has been a contemporary art curator for the past twenty years. She has held positions at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the University of Guelph, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection and The Power Plant. In 2006 she curated an exhibition for The Power Plant of the work of Inuit artist Annie Pootoogook that travelled nationally and internationally, propelling Pootoogook to be included in Documenta 12 and winning the Sobey Art Prize in 2007. Her work with Shuvinai Ashoona began with a two-person exhibition at the Art Museum at the University of Toronto titled *Noise Ghost: Shuvinai Ashoona and Shary Boyle*. Since that time Campbell has focused her curatorial practice on the contemporary

Inuit producing many exhibitions attempting to bridge the Inuit with the contemporary art.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING

Wednesday, October 30, 5:30 pm — 7:30 pm

RESPONSE: ASINNAJQ

Saturday, November 9, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Inuk artist asinnajaq reads a new suite of poems written in response to Ashoona's *Untitled (woman giving birth to the world)*, 2010, followed by a collective analysis and writing workshop focusing on select works in the exhibition.

In Response, critics and scholars are invited to examine the gallery's exhibitions from the standpoint of their practice and research. Focusing on a suite of works, a single artist, the overall curatorial proposal or the exhibition design and taking on a variety of forms according to the guest and their approach, these critical readings set out alternate angles and reference points from which to return to the exhibition and the gallery's programming,

TOUR IN ARABIC

Wednesday, November 20, 6:00 pm

Commented tour and conversation on the exhibition in Arabic with educator Emma Haraké

LOCAL RECORDS: UNA TUSAAGUK - LISTEN TO THIS ARCHIVES PRESENTATION BY GERONIMO INUTIQ

Friday, October 4, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Multimedia artist and musician, Geronimo Inutiq leads an archives presentation thinking about transmission, storytelling, reception and the introspective space of fiction, myth and music.

Inutiq will return to collections of Inuit songs and myths as published by the National Museum of Man (now the Canadian Museum of History), records of traditional and contemporary Inuit music released by CBC Northern Services, as well as cassettes from his own personal collection.

Local Records is a program that pairs exhibitions with relevant archival holdings in Montreal. Animated by a guest researcher each seminar coordinates encounters and discussions around a selection of primary documents, offering a local lens through which to consider the exhibition and a point of departure for new research.

LIVE LISTENING SESSION: NIPIVUT, URBAN INUIT RADIO

Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Meaning “Our Voice” in Inuktituk, Nipivut is an urban Inuit community radio show concerned with connecting North and South through the medium of voice.

Curious about what sounds might have accompanied the creation of Ashoona’s work as well as what the works themselves might sound like, Nipivut has prepared a special episode based on *Mapping Worlds* to be broadcast the night of the event.

Listening together in the gallery space, the audience will be guided through Ashoona’s worlds—be they physical, social, imaginary or discursive.

A conversation on-site will follow between Nipivut host Annie Pisuktie and guests Jenna Amarualik and Nancy Saunders

PUBLICATION

Ways of Thinking on-line versions are available via the Gallery’s website.
<http://ellengallery.concordia.ca/ways-of-thinking/current/?lang=en>

Handouts printed and distributed: French: 350 / English: 500

PRESS REVIEW

Articles

Eranthi Swaminathan “Concordia’s Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery hosts the first major solo museum exhibition of Shuvinai Ashoona,” October 28, 2019
<http://www.concordia.ca/content/shared/en/news/stories/2019/10/28/concordia-leonard-and-bina-ellen-art-gallery-hosts-the-first-major-solo-museum-exhibition-of-shuvinai-ashoona.html>

Matisse Harvey, “Cartographier des univers, une rétrospective d’œuvres de l’artiste inuk Shuvinai Ashoona,” in *Regard sur l’Arctique*, Radio Canada International, Tuesday, November 12, 2019
<https://www.rcinet.ca/regard-sur-arctique/2019/11/12/art-inuit-shuvinai-ashoona-dessins-exposition-concordia-cape-dorset-nunavut-arctique/>

Sara Hashemi, “Mapping Worlds,” in *The McGill Daily*, November 18, 2019
<https://www.mcgilldaily.com/2019/11/mapping-worlds/>

Montreal Culture - RMF - Art Inuit Bons Plans
<https://soundcloud.com/rmf-montreal/montreal-culture-rmf-art-inuit-bons-plans-22-novembre-2019>

Eddie Malaterre, RMF Radio Montréal France, 22 Novembre 2019

Nicolas Mavrikakis, “«Cartographier des univers»: art inuit ou art actuel?,” in *Le Devoir*, November 30, 2019
<https://www.ledevoir.com/culture/arts-visuels/568082/cartographier-des-univers-art-inuit-ou-art-actuel>

Julia Skelly “Shuvinai Ashoona, Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University, Montréal,” in *Esse arts + opinions*, January 6th, 2020

<https://esse.ca/fr/shuvinai-ashoona-leonard-bina-ellen-art-gallery-concordia-university-montreal>

Éric Clément "Shuvinai Ashoona : Connexions illimitées," in La Presse, January 11th, 2020

<https://www.lapresse.ca/arts/arts-visuels/202001/10/01-5256337-shuvinai-ashoona-connexions-illimitees.php>

Listings

Canadian Art, Editors' Pick

<https://canadianart.ca/agenda/shuvinai-ashoona>

Mousse Magazine

<http://moussemagazine.it/shuvinai-ashoona-mapping-worlds-at-galerie-leonard-bina-ellen-art-gallery-montreal-2019-2020/>

Baron MAG

<https://baronmag.com/2019/11/les-expositions-a-visiter-en-novembre-a-montreal/>

Baron MAG

<https://baronmag.com/2019/12/plusieurs-expositions-a-visiter-en-decembre-a-montreal/>

Cult MTL

<https://cultmtl.com/2020/01/montreal-events-to-do-january-7/>

Journal de Montréal

<https://www.journaldemontreal.com/2019/11/19/je-sors-je-reste>

Tourisme Montréal

<https://www.mtl.org/fr/quoi-faire/festivals-et-evenements/shuvinai-ashoona-cartographier-des-univers-montreal>

ATTENDANCE

Number of days open to the public: 48

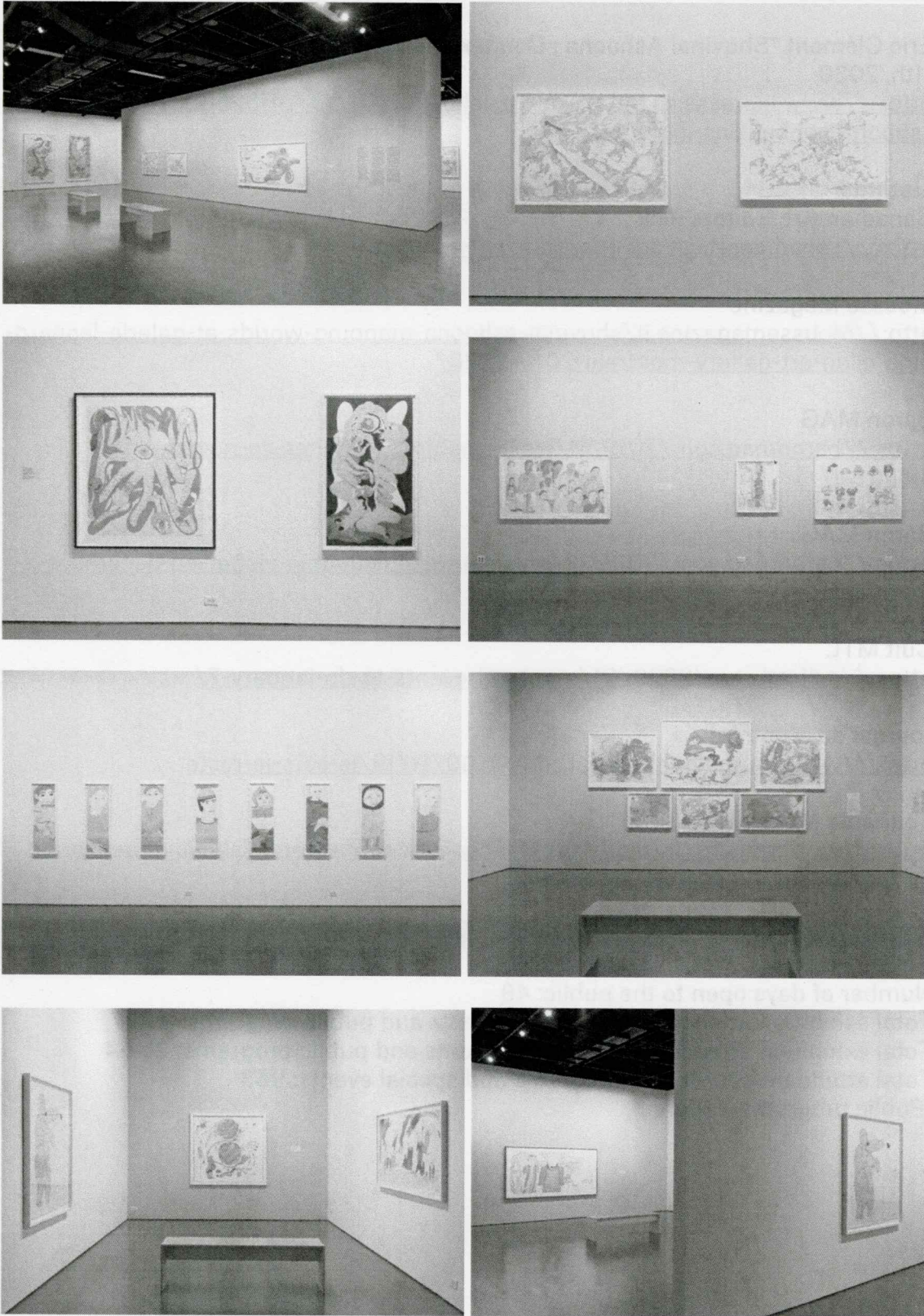
Total exhibition attendance, including events and public programs: 3 427

Total exhibition attendance, excluding events and public programs: 2 464

Total attendance for public programs and special events: 963

(Public programs + tours)

DOCUMENTATION & LIST OF WORKS



Installation view of Shuvinai Ashoona, *Mapping Worlds* at The Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University, Montreal. Photo by Paul Litherland

2008
2007-2000

007-2008

129.54 x 63.5 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Feheley Fine Arts

Courtesy of the artist and Feheley Fine Arts

Composition (Creature Invasions), 2017
Fineliner pen, graphite and coloured pencil on paper

on black paper

Gross

05-2006

on paper. The authors of the study, however, note that the results are preliminary and that further research is needed to confirm the findings.

likian

oil on paper

11
2011
d pencil on paper

Courtesy of Stephanie Comer and Rob Craigie

Courtesy of Stephanie Comer and Rob Craigie

Courtesy of John and Joyce Price

Courtesy of TD Bank Group Art Collection

The Lazarus Barnes Collection

The Lynn and Gerald McMaster Collection

Courtesy of John Cook

Courtesy of Paul and Mary Dailey Desmarais III

10

Satan the Polar Bear
Fineliner pen and coloured pencil on paper
134.94 x 256.22 cm
Courtesy of Paul and Mary Dailey Desmarais III

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM LBEAG

Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec

Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery
Concordia University

1400 De Maisonneuve Blvd. West, LB-165
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3G 1M8
ellen.artgallery@concordia.ca
ellengallery.concordia.ca